Drought assistance to Maharashtra

3881. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that farmers of Maharashtra who have been hit by the drought have not been paid enough compensation;;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the farmers are facing acute starvation;

(d) whether the State Government had sought relief from the Central Government; and

(e) if so, the response of the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (e) No report has been received in the Ministry of Agriculture from the Government of Maharashtra regarding farmers in the State facing acute starvation. On the basis of final paisewari, the State Government has declared 25 districts as drought affected.

In response to the Memorandum submitted by the State Government recently, seeking assistance of Rs. 988.37 crores from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) and 2 lakh MTs of foodgrains for drought relief employment, an Inter-Ministerial Central Team has visited the State for assessment of the situation. Further action will be taken on receipt of the Team's report, in accordance with the prescribed procedure.

Setting up of Maize Production Industry in Khagaria and Bhagalpur

†3882. SHRI VIDYA SAGAR NISHAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether government are aware that due to availability of foodgrains in the market in Khagaria and Bhagalpur districts, the maize producing farmers earn less profit in comparison to its cost;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to set up a maize production industry and maize chips or maize flex factory in those areas;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.